

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0024] and [0029] with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0024] The test taking software 112 may constitute a JAVA application not constrained by the limitations of a browser, such as it's its supported version of the JAVA runtime environment. Furthermore, in using JNLP the test taking software 112 may easily be updated. Alternately, the test taking software 112 may be implemented by way of an applet or any other software application configured to perform the methods described herein.

[0029] The web server 122 is in communication with the testing stations 111a...n to provide access to the service center 120. The web server 122 is in further communication with a data storage device 123. The data storage device 123 is configured to store all data received from the testing stations 111a... n which information may comprise the user's responses to questions and any other interaction between the user and the testing station 111a... n. In addition, the data storage device 123 stores data necessary for fault recovery purposes in the even event the testing station 111a...n fails. Fault recovery information may include a substantial mirror copy of the current state of a test being administered to user sufficient to allow fault recovery without reconstructing the state from stored information. State information may include test answers and elapsed testing time for a test currently being administered to a user, for example, on a testing station. The data storage device 123 also caches test information (e.g., test questions, etc.) received from the backend 130 and is further configured to store test items which may be delivered to and displayed on the testing stations 111a...n and information received from the testing stations 111a... n (e.g., test results, user identifying information, etc.) to be transmitted to the back-end 130.